



## Finding Information in an Emergency — FEMA Radio Network

**NOAA Weather Radio can be heard on these frequencies:**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1 | 162.550 MHz |
| 2 | 162.400     |
| 3 | 162.475     |
| 4 | 162.425     |
| 5 | 162.450     |
| 6 | 162.500     |
| 7 | 162.525     |

**Choose the best frequency for your location.**

### The Latest News Soundbites and Updates

In the event disaster strikes, FEMA has established a special news service for radio stations around the country. In many cases, portable radios become disaster victims' primary source of information. The FEMA Radio Network (FRN) is easy to use. By simply dialing a toll-free telephone number, stations reach a series of recordings that provide the latest up-to-the-minute reports on the federal government's emergency response and recovery operations. Stations may then choose to record these briefs for use in their newscasts.

### Live Interviews with Key Officials

This network also has the capability to let stations interview federal officials live via telephone or by 56 Kbaud digital line. FEMA calls stations and provides live on-air interviews. When a disaster hits, not only will radio listeners be completely informed on federal emergency response activities with daily FEMA updates, they will also hear firsthand from FEMA officials in interviews with local newscasters.

After a disaster strikes, the recovery process starts, and FRN continues to keep victims informed with information on where to apply for disaster assistance, where Red Cross shelters are located and detailed information on exactly how the disaster assistance application process works.

### Tailored Public Service Announcements

FRN regularly updates its service, letting radio stations know what is happening with FEMA's programs and projects nationwide. FRN can also provide customized Public Service Announcements that can include local stations' call letters and city names. Tailored PSAs will focus on regional disaster threats such as hurricanes, tornados, winter storms, earthquakes or hazardous materials.

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Federal Emergency  
Management Agency  
(FEMA)

## Already on the Air!

FRN has played a key role in providing information to disaster victims in Texas, California, Oklahoma City, Louisiana and Mississippi. Soundbites have been provided in both English and Spanish.

“The broadcasts are tailored to weather information needs of people within the receiving area.”

## NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States Department of Commerce. As the "Voice of the National Weather Service," it provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information directly from National Weather Service offices. Taped weather messages are repeated every 4 to 6 minutes and are routinely revised every 1 to 3 hours, or more frequently if needed. Most of the stations operate 24 hours daily.

During severe weather, National Weather Service forecasters can interrupt the routine weather broadcasts and substitute special warning messages. The forecasters can also activate specially designed warning receivers. Such receivers either sound an alarm indicating an emergency exists, alerting the listener to turn the receiver up to an audible volume or when operated in a muted mode, are automatically turned on so that the warning message is heard. "Warning alarm" receivers are especially valuable for schools, hospitals, public-safety agencies and news media offices.

Under a January 1975 White House policy statement, NOAA Weather Radio was designated the sole government-operated radio system to provide direct warnings into private homes for both natural disasters and nuclear attack. This will supplement warnings by sirens and by commercial radio and TV.

The broadcasts are tailored to weather information needs of people within the receiving area. For example, stations along the sea coasts and Great Lakes provide weather information for boaters, fishers and others engaged in marine activities, as well as general weather information.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts are made on one of seven high-band FM frequencies ranging from 162.40 to 162.55 megahertz (MHz). These frequencies are not found on the average home radio now in use. However, a number of radio manufacturers offer special weather radios which operate on these frequencies, with or without the emergency warning alarm. Also, there are now many

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radios on the market which offer standard AM/FM frequencies plus the so-called "weather band" as an added feature.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts can usually be heard as far as 40 miles from the antenna site, sometimes more. The effective range depends on many factors, particularly the height of the broadcasting antenna, terrain, quality of the receiver, and type of receiving antenna. As a general rule, listeners close to or perhaps beyond the 40-mile range should have a good quality receiver system if they expect reliable reception. Also, an outside antenna may be required in these fringe areas. If practical, a receiver should be tried at its place of intended use before making a final purchase.

The National Weather Service operates about 380 stations. Approximately 90% of the nation's population is within listening range of a NOAA Weather Radio broadcast. A similar network of about 15 stations using the same frequencies broadcasts continuous weather information across much of southern Canada.

If you have a question concerning NOAA Weather Radio or wish to receive a listing of NOAA Weather Radio receiver manufacturers, please contact your nearest National Weather Service Office, or write to National Weather Service (Attn: W/OM11), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.